

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 5 and 23 are amended. Claim 28 is added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An isolated protease comprising an amino acid sequence which a) has at least 90% identity with the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO: 2 and b) ~~having~~ has protease activity.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The protease according to claim 1 having an amino acid sequence which has more than 94.0% identity with the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The protease according to claim 1, which comprises the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The protease according to claim 1, which consists of the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids 1 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The protease according to claim 1, wherein the protease is a variant comprising a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of one or more amino acid residues of a protease having the amino acid sequence shown as amino acids -25 to 226 of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~comprising a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of one or more amino acid residues.~~

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The protease according to claim 1 having more than 90.0% identity with the mature part of the protease encoded by the protease encoding part of the polynucleotide cloned into a plasmid fragment present in Escherichia coli deposited under the accession No. DSM 15940.

Claim 8-10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The protease according to claim 1, where the protease is a

trypsin like protease.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The protease according to claim 1, where the protease has a residual activity of at least 50% after storage for 30 minutes at 35°C when tested using the method disclosed in Example V.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The protease according to claim 11, where the protease has a residual activity of at least 55% after storage for 30 minutes at 35°C.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes for the protease defined in claim 1.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid sequence according to claim 14, having a nucleic acid sequence which has at least 90% identity with the nucleic acid sequence shown as nucleotides 52 to 804 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleic acid sequence of claim 14 operably linked to one or more control sequences capable of directing the expression of the protease in a suitable host.

Claim 18. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid construct of claim 17, a promoter, and transcriptional and translational stop signals.

Claim 19. (Original) A recombinant host cell comprising the nucleic acid construct of claim 17.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) A host cell according to claim 19, which is a fungus or yeast.

Claim 21.-22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A method for producing the protease according to claim 1, the method comprising:

f.a) cultivating a recombinant host cell as defined claim 19 under conditions conducive to the production of the protease; and

g.b) recovering the protease.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) A cleaning or detergent composition comprising the protease according to claim 1.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 24, which additionally comprises a cellulase, lipase, cutinase, oxidoreductase, another protease, an amylase, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 26. (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Previously presented) A method for cleaning or washing a hard surface or laundry, the method comprising contacting the hard surface or the laundry with the composition defined in claim 25.

Claim 28. (New) The protease according to claim 1 having more than 94% identity with the mature part of the protease encoded by the protease encoding part of the polynucleotide cloned into a plasmid fragment present in Escherichia coli deposited under the accession No. DSM 15940.